

123. Feeding the 5,000 (John 6:1-15)

Prayer: Dear Jesus, You are the Lord ruling heaven and earth. You take care of us, You give us everything we need. Sometimes we doubt and think we will not have enough. We worry about having food, clothes, a place to live. In this study, help us trust You more that You will always take care of us. We pray in Your name, Jesus. Amen.

John 6:1-2. Jesus left and went across the Sea of Galilee. Many, many people followed Jesus. They saw all the miracles Jesus did, healing sick people. So they followed Him.

- Many people followed Jesus. Why were they interested in Jesus?

John 6:3-6. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down with His disciples. The Jewish festival named Passover was coming soon. Jesus looked up and saw a huge crowd of people coming to Him. So Jesus asked Philip, “All these people need to eat. Where can we buy bread for them?” Jesus already had plans to feed the people. But Jesus asked the question to test Philip.

- Like many other times, huge crowds of people are following Jesus. The people needed to eat some time. Philip was from that area. What did Jesus ask Philip?
- If Jesus already knew His own plans to feed the people, why would He test Philip? Why not just feed the people?

John 6:7-9. Philip answered, “8 months of wages is not enough money to buy bread. If we had all that money and bought bread, everyone would only get a little bit!” Another disciple was Peter’s brother Andrew. Andrew told Jesus, “A boy is here with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. But that is nothing for so many people!”

- Did Philip think they could buy food for everyone?
- How much food did Andrew have? Did he think that would help?

John 6:10-13. Jesus said, “Tell the people to sit down.” That area had a lot of grass. So everyone sat down, about 5,000 men. Jesus took the bread. He thanked God, then gave the bread to people. Jesus also gave the people fish, as much as they wanted. Everyone ate and became full. Then Jesus told the disciples, “Gather the leftover food. Don’t waste anything.” The disciples gathered the food. Jesus started with only 5 loaves of bread, but now the disciples gather 12 baskets full of food left over.

- What did Jesus do? Did He wait for the disciples to figure out an answer?
- Everyone finished eating. Jesus said, “Don’t waste any food.” How much food did they pick up?
- When Jesus tested Philip, how did Philip want to get food? Where should Philip have asked for food?
- Sometimes we pass a test, sometimes we fail. Either way, we can still learn from a test. What do you think the disciples should have learned from this test?

John 6:14-15. The people saw the miracle Jesus did. They said to each other, “This is the Prophet, the one God said will come into the world.” The people planned to force Jesus to become king. Jesus knew that, so He left and went up the mountain alone.

- After the people saw the miracle, what did they want to do? Did Jesus agree with their plans?
- Why do you think the crowd of people wanted to force Jesus to become king? What were they most interested in? (Think about why they were following Jesus. Read John 6:1-2 again.)
- Jesus tested the disciples, not the crowd. Do you think the crowd learned anything good from the test? Why or why not?